

SECRET TRIPS

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The Wennerstroems Were Busy Here

BY TOM KELLY

In June 1961, Col. Stig Eric Wennerstrom, an Air Force attaché at the Swedish Embassy, a man as bold and well-liked as an eagle, had at least two things on his mind.

✓ His pretty daughter, Christina, 16, had eloped with a Capitol page boy, Huw Williams, 18.

✓ He was also, according to the Swedish Government, very busy selling secrets to the Russians.

The Colonel, an Air Force attaché at the Swedish Embassy, had just been transferred back to Stockholm. On June 2—a Sunday—he noticed his daughter was missing from their home, 6221 29th St. NW.

GONE

"It came as a big surprise," he said later. "All day Saturday we had been packing our things. Then I woke up the next morning and found she was gone along with all her belongings."

The Colonel seemed unusually detached, almost preoccupied, at the time. When his daughter failed to show up in a couple of weeks, he went on to Sweden without her. Mrs. Wennerstrom remained in Washington and it was she who scouted up Christina when the girl and Huw were finally found in Williamsport, Pa.

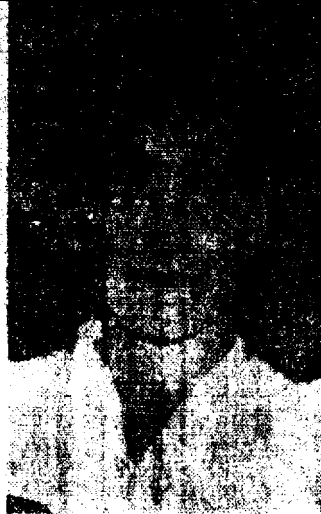
Christina and Huw had not married, so mother and daughter hurried back to Sweden where father was already in business as before.

The full extent of his business became public yesterday when the Swedish Foreign Ministry announced that he had confessed to selling U. S. and Swedish defense secrets to Russia over a period of 15 years.

The Colonel was stationed in Moscow in the '40s and posted to Washington in 1952. A Swedish Government spokesman said Col. Wennerstrom has admitted that he had early photographs and documents and delivered them to a contact in the Soviet Embassy.



COL. WENNERSTROEM



CHRISTINA



HUW

first person involved in the romantic tangle to wind up in the hands of the police.

Huw, the eloping page, subsequently pleaded guilty as an accessory after the fact in a robbery here and was sent to a Federal Training School in Kentucky. His mother blamed that on the busting up of his romance by Christina's parents.

"He just went to pieces," his mother said. "He had no heart for anything."

The Wennerstroems themselves are remembered well by the diplomatic set.

"He was very charming," one matron said. "And they seemed to be very well off."

Newspapers Hit Swedish Security

STOCKHOLM, June 26 (UPI)—Some Swedish newspapers today demanded a complete overhaul of the nation's security system following charges that Col. Wennerstrom spied for the Soviet Union for 15 years. Other papers attacked Russia for carrying out espionage.

Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson, meanwhile, informed the Soviet Charge d'Affaires that the first secretary at the Soviet Embassy and the military attaché Reports said both left the country hurriedly.

CPYRGHT